57. Need for redressing the grievances of the ryots of Nanjinad in the matter of agricultural operations.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) thanked the Government on behalf of the ryots of Nanjinad for the action taken in regard to the establishment of an Irrigation Board, and requested that the Board might be constituted as soon as possible and placed on a statutory basis. He then pressed the following for the consideration of Government :—

(1) The need for constructing a road between Thamarakulam and Parakay, about two miles long, had been brought to the notice of Government frequently. The lands required for the purpose were given free of compensation by the ryots so far back as 1047. The road was very necessary for the ryots for the transport of manure, etc., to about 3,000 acres of lands. The Peishkar and the P. W. D. authorities who inspected the place admitted the necessity for the road. So long ago as in 1076, an estimate was prepared for Rs. 1,800 but nothing further had been done. He requested that the road might be opened at a very early date.

(2) Applications for remission of tax owing to *tharisu*, *karivu* and *azhukichetham* were not dealt with in a sympathetic spirit. Owing to want of sufficient water in the reservoir, some of the lands at the tail end of the commanded area suffered. The Revenue authorities were satisfied with it on local inspection. Yet, remission was refused on the ground that the entire commanded area had sufficient supply of water. Rules should be passed allowing remission in all real cases of *tharisu*, *karivu* and *azhukichetham*.

(3) On account of the establishment of toll-gates in the Cape and the Balamore roads, the people of Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks were obliged to pay a large sum in the shape of toll-fees. Business often took them to Nagercoil, where the public institutions were located. Government had granted the concession of free passes in favour of the people of Suchindram. The people of Nagercoil had not also to pay any toll. In view of the hardship to the villagers who had to pay the toll, the Member prayed that the tolls might be abolished.

(4) The Pazhayar should be broadened and deepened from Suchindram as far as the Manakudi *kayal*, so as to prevent the inundation of the adjoining fields.

(5) Permission should be given to the adjoining ryots to plant manure trees on *poramboke* bunds.

(6) The construction of the big sluice in the Parakay tank to let in water to Palkulam had the effect of clearing that tank to the serious detriment of 1,600 acres served by the tank. The old and smaller sluice served the purpose very well by letting in the required water to the Palkulam and retaining also sufficient quantity to irrigate the Parakay lands. The subject had been represented at the last session of the Assembly, and no action had been taken for closing the new sluice. A small sluice should be put up at the place and the present one closed.

(7) A correct equivalent of the Nanjanad *marakal* should be ascertained and fixed as repeatedly prayed for in previous sessions. It was desirable to appoint a Committee to enquire into the whole question and submit a report to Government.

(8) The notification published in the Gazette prohibiting the transport of paddy or rice from Nanjanad to other parts of the State should be cancelled.

Dewan's reply.—With reference to the representation regarding the drainage of water from the Parakay tank, I shall inspect the locality. The other points are noted.

58. Agriculture in South Travancore.

Mr. N. Kunjan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Colachel) said that, with the completion of the Kodayar Irrigation scheme, the several irrigation tanks in the Eraniel taluk ceased to be maintained and became silted up. There were about 2,100 acres of lands in Midalam, Kizhmidalam, Nattalam, Killiyur and Kizhkulam *pakuthies* which were not served at all by the Kodayar channels. The result was that crops had been

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